

Design and Simulation of 256 bit 64-point FFT Using RADIX 4 Algorithm

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ABSTRACT

A Parallel and pipelined Fast Fourier transform(FFT) processor for use in the orthogonal frequency division multiplexer .it is important to develop a high performance FFT processor to meet the requirements of the real time and low cost in many different systems. Un like being stored in the traditional ROM, the twiddle factors in our pipelined FFT processor can be accessed directly. here we simulated and synthesized the 256 bit 64 point FFT with radix 4 using VHDL coding and simulation and synthesis done by Modelsim ISE and Xilinx ISE design suite respectively.

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Introduction:

Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) processor is widely used in different applications, such as WLAN, image process, spectrum measurements, radar and multimedia communication services [1]. However, the FFT algorithm is a demanding task and it must be precisely designed to get an efficient implementation. If the FFT processor is made flexible and fast enough, a portable device equipped with wireless transmission system is feasible. Therefore, an efficient FFT processor is required for real-time operations [2] and designing a fast FFT processor is a matter of great significance.

Active and passive radar systems are two commonly used radar systems in different military and nonmilitary applications respectively. Active radar systems are commonly used in military and commercial applications for the detection and tracking of objects through a medium such as air. Most active radar systems work by transmitting a signal pulse through the medium scatters off objects in the medium. by processing the received wave field, an active radar system can determine an object's distance, velocity, and other features. The passive detection of objects has become of particular interest to the military in scenarios where the medium needs to be monitored covertly. A passive radar system can consist solely of an array of receiving antennas as opposed to an active radar system with a co-located transmitter and receiver. Without a transmitter the passive radar system relies on other sources of electromagnetic waves, such as am or fm radio waves, t v broadcast, nearby radar, cell towers, or a wideband waveform to "illuminate" objects in the

medium [3]. An active radar system has the benefit of a known transmit waveform. A passive radar system does not have knowledge of the transmitted signal and thus has to rely on digital signal processing techniques to extract information from an array of sensors over a period of time.

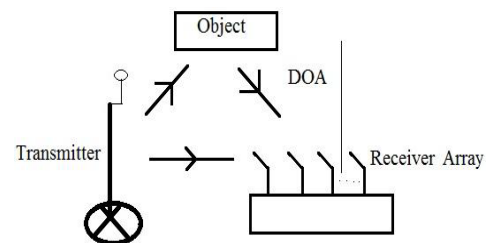


Fig: 1. Radar system

The system is divided in a transmission section and a reception section in modem communication systems Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple (OFDM) plays a crucial role and it will be replaced by Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access (OFDMA) in the next generation wireless communication systems such as WiMAX and 3G-LTE standard.

The fastness of the system depends on their intra and inter peripherals, the intra peripherals depends on the designers choice and the inter peripherals depends on the users choice. Designers choice includes components, algorithms etc, users choice includes inputs, external devices, signals etc. The previous project had focused on radix-2 algorithm which has more delay. To overcome this problem there is a need

to change in the algorithm majorly, the present project deals with change in the algorithm called radix-4 algorithm and focus on the design and implementation of 256-bits 64-points Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) for a Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) kit. The coding is done in VHDL, simulation and synthesis can be done by using Model SIM ISE and Xilinx ISE Design Suite respectively.

Basic Theory of OFDM:

The Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) technique is one of the most important modulation approaches which is used in many schemes

of communication systems such as wireless communications and networks [4,5]. The benefit of the OFDM approach rather than other modulation approaches is the efficient use of bandwidth using overlapping property. A typical OFDM system consists of two parts; receiver and transmitter. The receiver has four important blocks which are serial-to-parallel block, Inverse Fast Fourier Transform (IFFT), QAM table and the RF block. In the other hand, transmitter has RF block at the front end, Fast Fourier Transform (FFT), QAM table and parallel-to-serial block at the back end, shown in Figures 2(a) and 2(b).

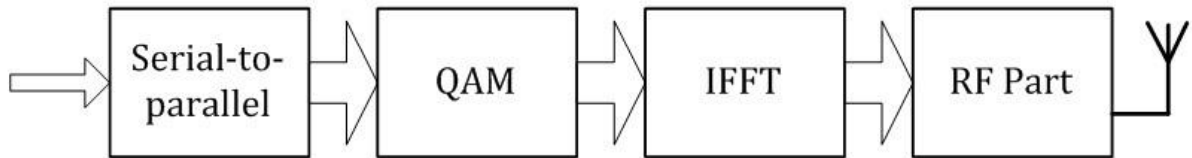


Fig 2(a) The receiver block of a typical OFDM based system

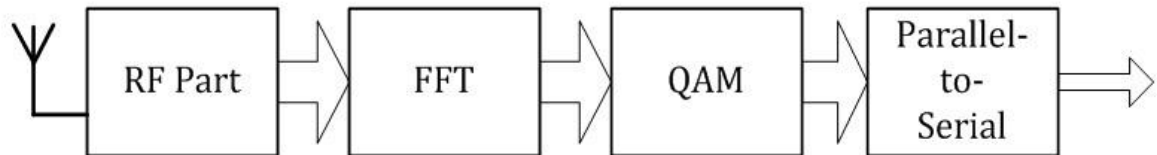


Fig. 2 (b) The transmitter block of a typical OFDM based system

OFDM is a wideband wireless digital communication technique that is based on block modulation. It is known as block modulation because the OFDM frame is split into blocks and each block has T_s duration. These blocks contain one or more symbols. Each symbol or group of symbols will be assigned a separate carrier. The OFDM arranges the subcarriers in such a way that they do not overlap and maintain the orthogonality between them. These subcarriers are modulated independently. All the split information is then transmitted in parallel through multiple carriers [6]. In OFDM the carriers can be placed as near as possible maintaining the orthogonality, thereby making better utilization of the spectrum. The width of the pulse puts the limit on the sub-carrier spacing. The subcarrier spacing will be inversely proportional to the symbol duration, where symbol durations denoted by T_s . Longer is the symbol duration, better is the performance [7].

Algorithm:

The First designed chip is an FFT processor. The FFT processor has a central position both in the OFDM transmitter and receiver. The FFT is a computationally demanding operation that requires an ASIC implementation to reach high performance, i.e. high throughput combined with low energy consumption. The FFT and IFFT Equations has the property that, if

$$\text{FFT}(\text{Re}(x_i) + j\text{Im}(x_i)) = \text{Re}(X_i) + j\text{Im}(X_i) \text{ and}$$

$$\text{IFFT}(\text{Re}(X_i) + j\text{Im}(X_i)) = \text{Re}(x_i) + j\text{Im}(x_i),$$

where x_i and X_i are N words long sequences of complex valued, samples and sub-carriers respectively, then

$$1/N * \text{FFT}(\text{Im}(X_i) + j\text{Re}(X_i)) = \text{Im}(x_i) + j\text{Re}(x_i).$$

Thus, it is only necessary to discuss and implement the FFT equation. To calculate the inverse transform, the real and imaginary part of the input and output are swapped. Since N is a power of two, scaling with $1/N$ is the same as right shift the binary word $\log_2 N$ bits. Even simpler, is to just remember that the binary point has moved $\log_2 N$ bits to the left. Not performing the bit shift until, if ever, it is necessary, which depends on how the output from the IFFT will be used.

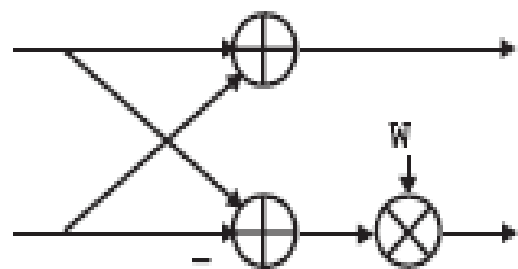


Fig: 3.a. A radix-2 DIF butterfly

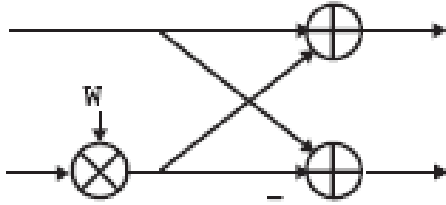


Fig: 3. B. A radix-2 DIT butterfly

The FFT algorithm can be realized with a butterfly operation as the basic building block. There are two types of butterfly operations, decimation in time (DIT) and decimation in frequency (DIF). The difference between DIT and DIF lies the position of the twiddle factor multiplication, which is either performed before or after the subtraction and addition. Since the FFT is based on divide and conquer, it will be most efficient if the input sequence is of length $N = rp$, where N is called point, r is called radix, and p is a positive integer. To compute an N -point FFT, p stages of butterflies are connected.

RADIX 4 Algorithm:

Radix-4 is another FFT algorithm which was surveyed to improve the speed of functioning by reducing the computation; this can be obtained by change the base to 4. For a same number if base increases the power/index will decreases. For radix-4 the number of stages are reduced to 50% since $N=4^3$ (N=4M) i.e. only 3 stages. Radix-4 is having four inputs and four outputs and it follows in-place algorithm. The following will explain the functioning of radix-4 and how the computational complexity is reduced.

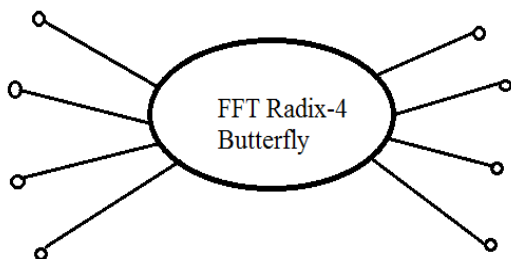


Fig: 4. Basic structure of R4 FFT

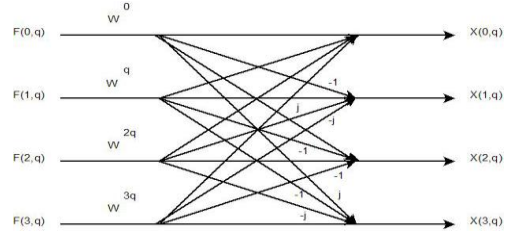


Fig: 5. Basic radix-4 butterfly operation

The Processing Element (PE) of the radix-4-based FFT algorithms is the 4-point FFT. The four butterfly outputs $X(0)$, $X(1)$, $X(2)$ and $X(3)$ obtained using inputs $x(0)$, $x(1)$, $x(2)$ and $x(3)$ can be performed using

$$\begin{aligned} X(0) &= x(0) + x(2) + x(1) + x(3) \\ X(1) &= x(0) - x(2) - j(x(1) - x(3)) \\ X(2) &= x(0) + x(2) - x(1) - x(3) \\ X(3) &= x(0) - x(2) + jx(1) - jx(3) \end{aligned}$$

When the decomposition in multiple building blocks is applied, the N -point FFT is realized by using several stages each one contains many butterflies. For N -point FFT, we need $s = \log_4 N$ stages and $b = \frac{N}{4}$ butterflies per stage. It can be seen that the computation of the FFTs in the second stage is dependent on the first stage computation. The same concept is applied to the computation of the third stage which depends on the second stage computation. More generally, the data-dependent computation is observed between successive stages for N -point FFT. Therefore, two architectures are possible. The first one is a parallel realization. For N -point FFT, we need $\frac{N}{4} \log_4 N$ radix-4 butterflies which is equivalent to $3 \frac{N}{4} \log_4 N$ complex multipliers and $8 \frac{N}{4} \log_4 N$ complex adders. Although this solution does not make an efficient use of the resources, it is very simple and offers a higher throughput.

The second realization is a recursive one. Where the N -point FFT can be performed using one radix-4 butterfly. This architecture is interesting in terms of the use of arithmetic operators but suffers from a low operating frequency.

Results:

Simulation results:

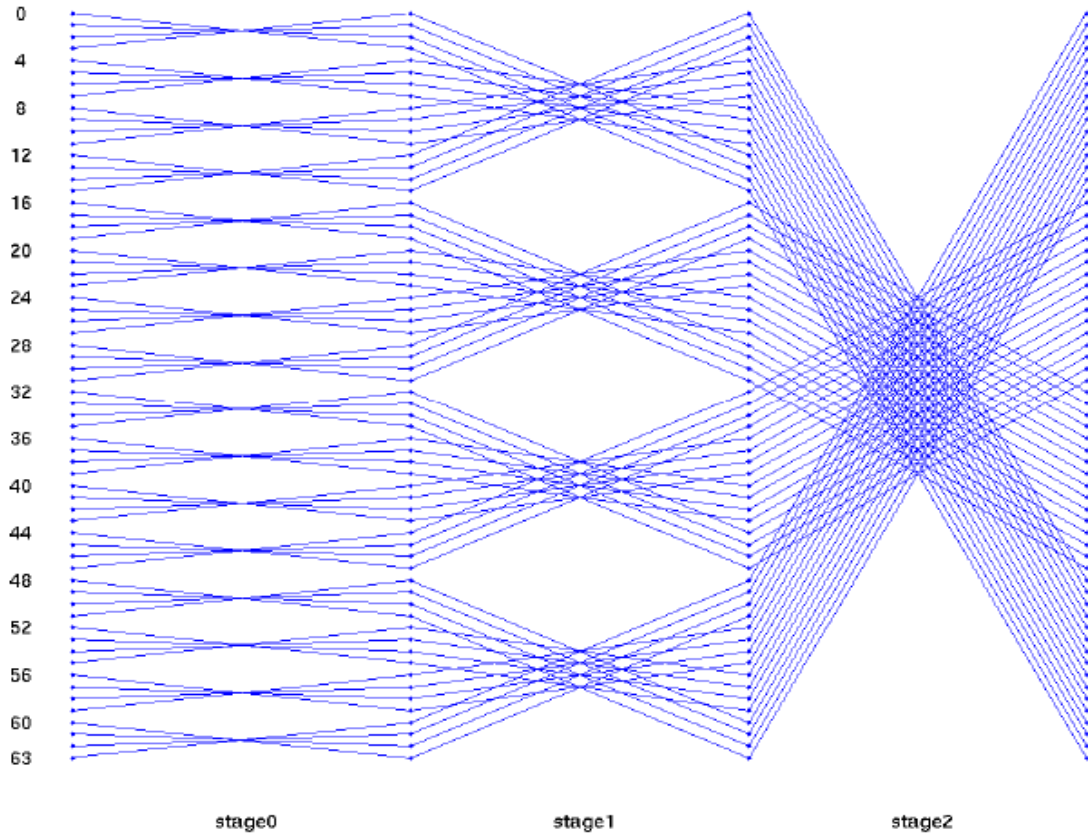


Fig. 6: 64-point radix-4 DITFFT butterfly diagram

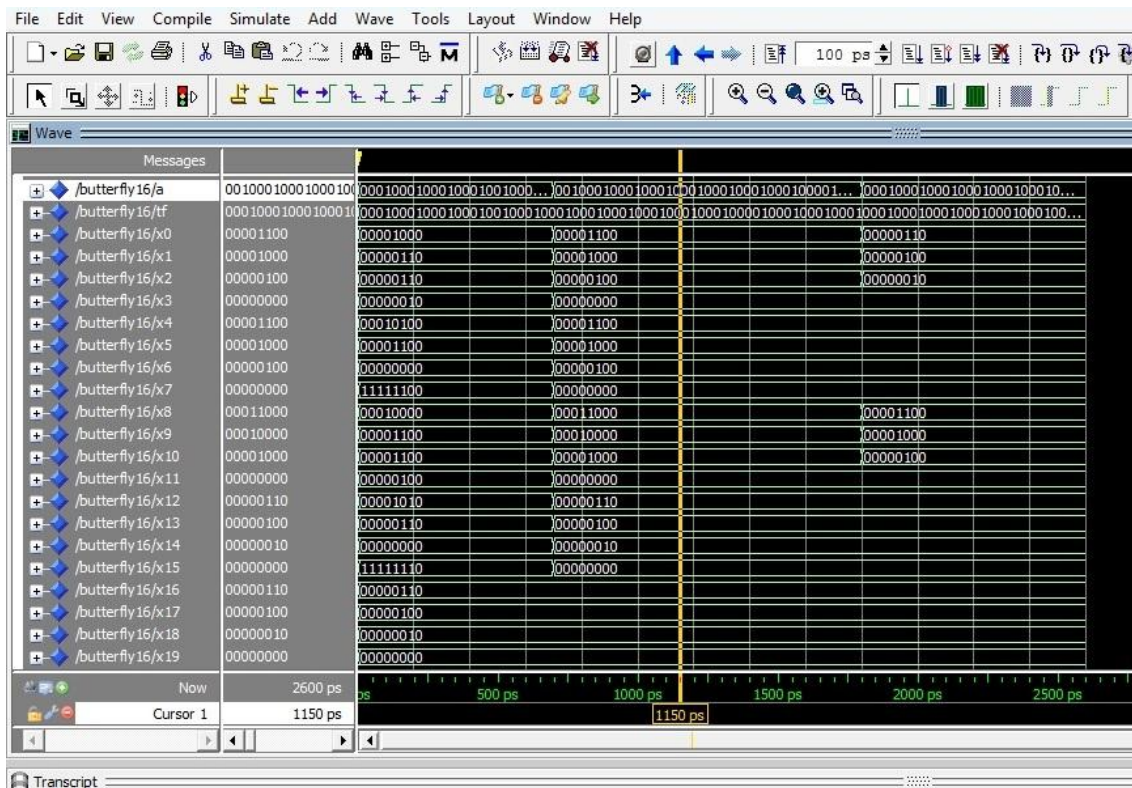


Fig. 7: Simulation results of 256-bit, 64-point radix-4 DIT-FFT (Cont...)

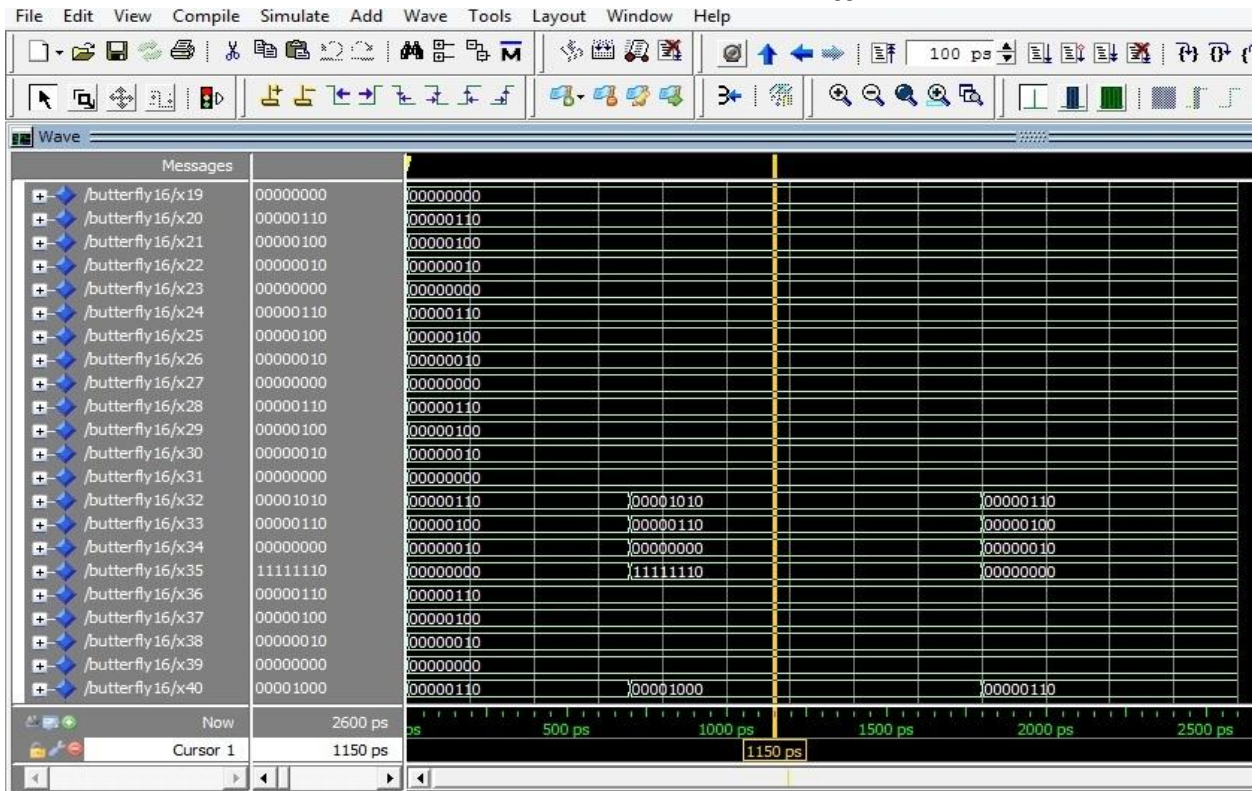


Fig. 7: Simulation results of 256-bit, 64-point radix-4 DIT-FFT (Cont...)

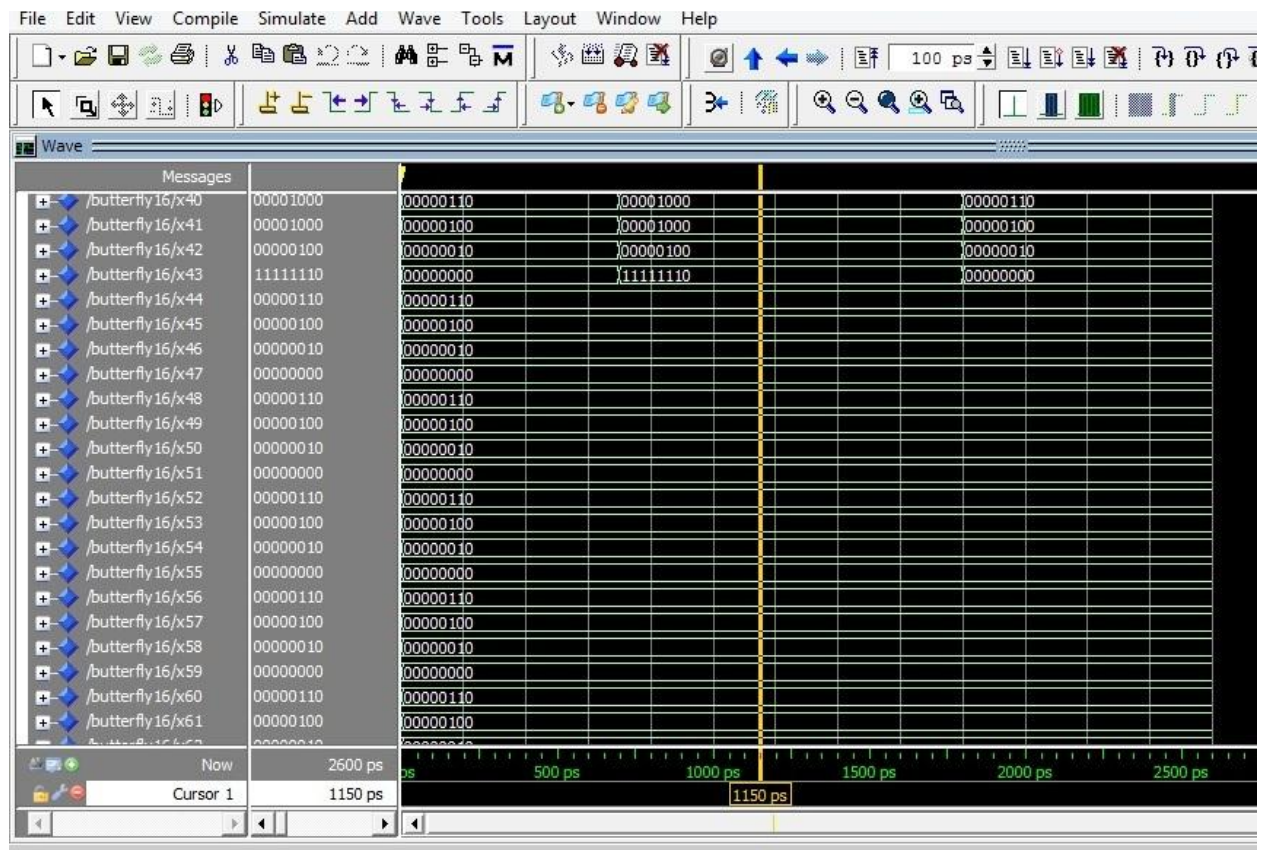


Fig. 7: Simulation results of 256-bit, 64-point radix-4 DIT-FFT (Cont...)

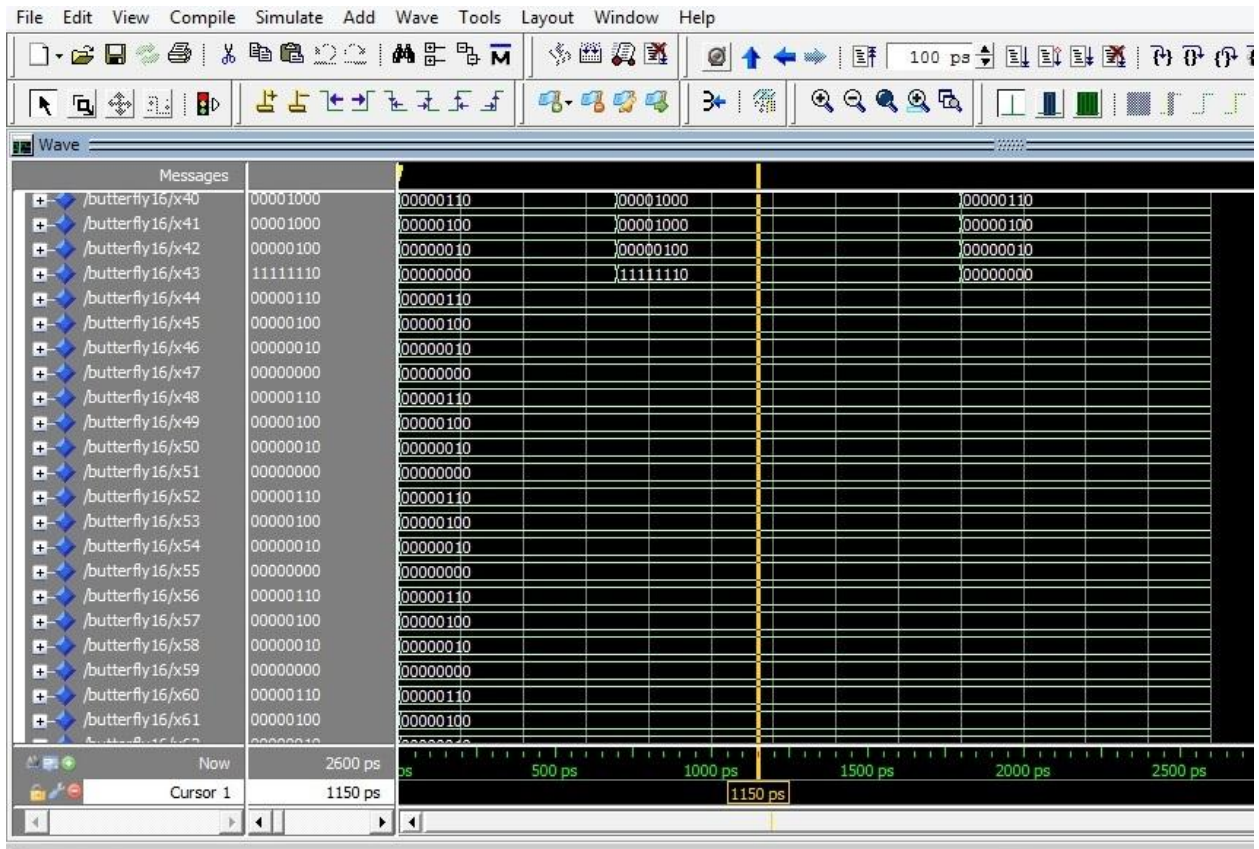


Fig 7: Simulation results of 256-bit, 64-point radix-4 DIT-FFT (Cont...)

Synthesis Results:

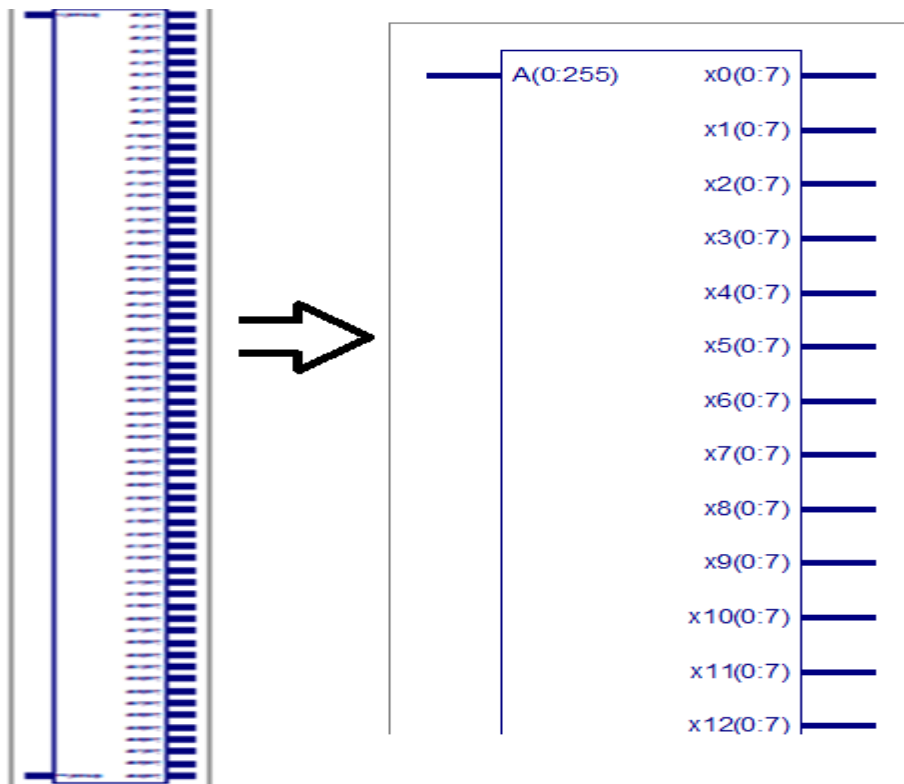


Fig. 8: RTL view of 256-bits 64-point radix-4 DIT-FFT (Top module)

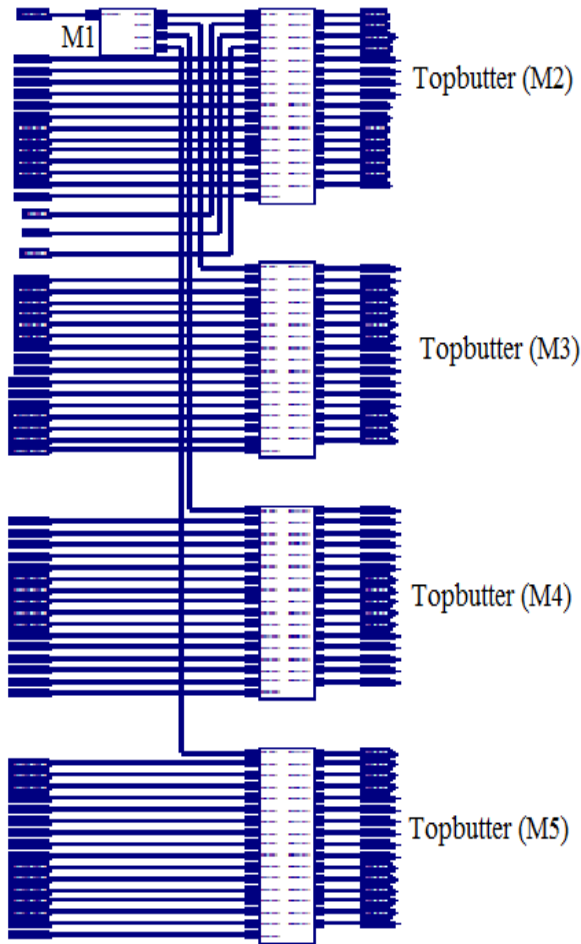


Fig. 9: Internal structure of top module

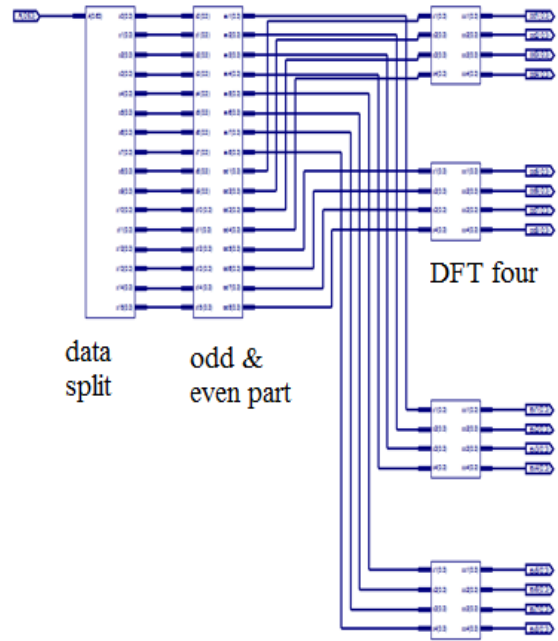


Fig. 11: Internal structure of Comutator

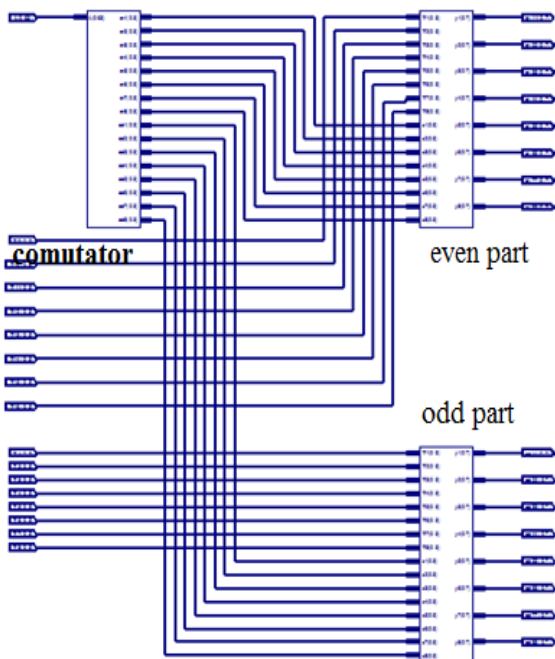


Fig. 10: Internal view of top butter (M2)

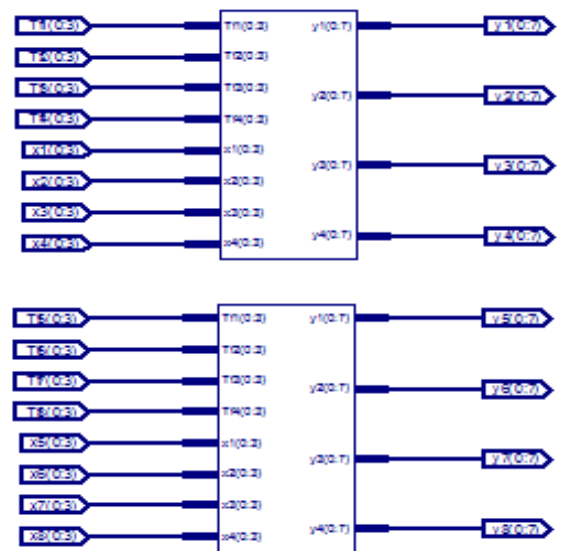


Fig. 12: Even and odd parts in top radix-8

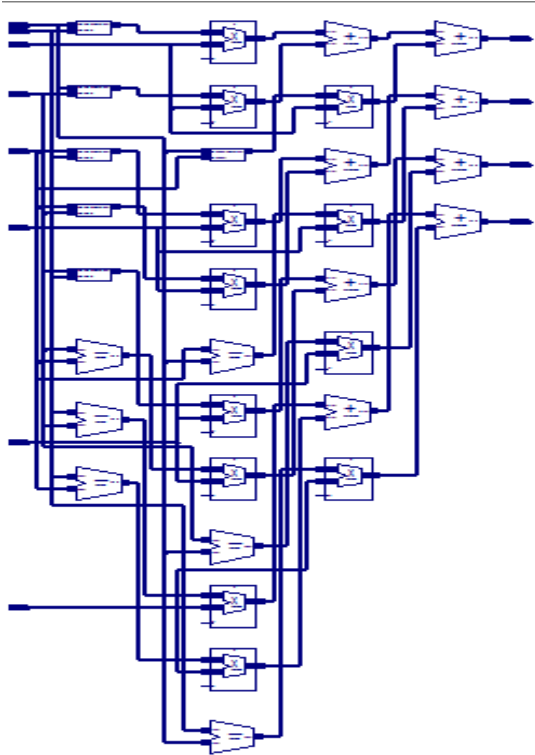


Fig. 13: Internal diagram of even/odd part

Conclusion:

This project presents the new high speed FFT architecture based on radix-4 algorithm. The pipelined 256-bit, 64-point radix-4 DIT-FFT can be implemented easily by using both FPGA and standard cell technologies, such portability is offered by this algorithm. From the above synthesis and simulation results of radix-4 64-points it is understandable that radix-4 having less delay in processing the input when compared with radix-2. Comparing with radix-2 algorithm, 75% of time is saved in radix-4 algorithm. As the delay time is reduced the fastness of the system is increased.

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